

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 041410Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5505

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2441

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: EWG MAY 3 MEETING AGENDA ITEM III, STUDY ON
RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION (R/S)

REF: A. STATE 50933

B. STATE 88703

SUMMARY. AT MAY 3 EWG MEETING, STUDY OF RATIONALIZATION/
SPECIALIZATION MADE LITTLE PROGRESS. ONLY BRIGHT SPOT WAS
UK AND US SUBMISSION OF FUNCTIONAL AREAS FOR FURTHER STUDY.
HOWEVER, EWG WAS UNABLE TO DISTILL LIST DOWN TO MANAGEABLE
SIZE. SEVERAL NATIONS WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. NEXT MEET-
ING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 9. MISSION REQUESTS FULLER INFORMATION
ON FUNCTIONAL AREAS PROPOSED BY US FOR STUDY.END SUMMARY.

1. EWG COVERED AGENDA ITEM ON RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION
(R/S) MAY 3 BECAUSE OF EXTENSIVE TIME DEVOTED TO ANTI-ARMOR
BRIEFING AT MAY 2 MEETING.

2. DISCUSSION FIRST CENTERED ABOUT THE NEED FOR CLEAR DEFINI-
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TION OF TERMS RATIONALIZATION AND SPECIALIZATION. IS WAS
DIRECTED TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS.

3. UK REP (MACDONALD) LED OFF DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC FUNC-

TIONAL AREAS BY PRESENTING NINE TOPICS LONDON CONSIDERS WORTHY OF FURTHER STUDY. HE WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT THESE SUGGESTIONS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS COMMITTING THE UK TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE RATIONALIZATION OR SPECIALIZATION IN THESE AREAS; THEY ARE OFFERED FOR STUDY AND CONSIDERATION ONLY. THE UK SUGGESTED TOPICS ARE:

- A. OBSTACLE CROSSING CAPABILITIES.
- B. MARITIME DEFENSIVE MINE-LAYING AND MINE-SWEEPING.
- C. NAVAL OPERATIONAL TRAINING.
- D. TANK TRANSPORTATION.
- E. EMPLOYMENT OF HELICOPTERS
- F. GROUND DEFENSE OF AIRFIELDS.
- G. CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS.
- H. MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION ON LINES OF COMMUNICATION.
- I. MEDICAL SUPPORT.

4. BELGIAN REP (VON BOEYNANTS) STATED HIS GOVERNMENT WAS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN EWG STUDY OF SEVERAL ITEMS LISTED IN WORKING PAPER UNDER CONSIDERATION (AC/281-WP(74)2) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MINE WARFARE TRAINING AND MINE WARFARE TASKS. NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTENS) REFERRED TO HIS PREVIOUS SUGGESTIONS LISTED IN PARA 4 OF WORKING PAPER. HE THEN CALLED FOR MORE EXPLANATION FROM CAPITALS AS TO EXACTLY WHAT SUGGESTIONS REPRESENT. MISSION CONCURS THAT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED SHOULD INCLUDE SOME BACKGROUND MATERIAL WITH AN INDICATION OF WHAT NATION MIGHT UNDERTAKE OR GIVE UP IN A CERTAIN AREA. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE AND DETAILS OF PROPOSALS FOR RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION IN FUNCTIONAL AREAS US REGARDS AS MOST PROMISING.

5. US REP (PRENDERGAST), DRAWING ON REF B, OFFERED FOR EWG CONSIDERATION:

- A. TRAINING, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO COMMON TRAINING FOR HELICOPTER AND JET PILOTS.
 - B. COMMON TARGET SERVICES AND RANGE FACILITIES FOR MARITIME FORCES.
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C. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THREE NATIONS (US, UK, AND BELGIUM) AGREED IN PROPOSING CONSOLIDATION OF COMMUNICATIONS AS A FIELD OF STUDY IN THIS EXERCISE.

6. NO OTHER NATION WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AREAS, ALTHOUGH THE FRG AND CANADA EXPECT TO HAVE CONTRIBUTIONS IN ABOUT A WEEK.

7. REMAINDER OF DISCUSSION WAS DEVOTED TO EFFORTS, PRINCIPALLY BY US AND UK REPS, TO SOLICIT MORE ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES WHO SUPPORT THE LONG RANGE GOAL OF R/S BUT REMAIN GENERALLY NEGATIVE ABOUT THEIR ROLE IN ACHIEVING GOAL.

8. MEETING CLOSED WITH GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE EWG SHOULD BE BRIEFED BY OTHER GROUPS SUCH AS CNAD AND EUROGROUP PARTICIPATING IN SIMILAR STUDIES. R/S WILL BE ON AGENDA FOR NEXT EWG MEETING MAY 9. AT THIS NEXT MEETING, EWG HOPES TO PRODUCE A MORE WORKABLE LIST OF AREAS SUITABLE FOR FURTHER STUDY. COMMENT: MISSION CONSIDERS MAY 3 MEETING SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING. MOST NATIONS ARE UNWILLING TO SELECT SPECIFIC FUNCTIONAL AREAS FOR STUDY PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION. PROGRESS WILL BE SLOW WITHOUT ACTIVE US LEADERSHIP; WASHINGTON'S DETAILED MATRIX WILL BE ESPECIALLY VALUABLE IN THIS REGARD. END COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO02441
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12/31/80
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740587/abbryusd.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 50933 B. STATE 88703
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Sep-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EWG MAY 3 MEETING AGENDA ITEM III, STUDY ON RATIONALIZATION/SPECI(R/S) (R/S)
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

